REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 have been amended and Claims 4, 6, 15, 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 20 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,741,786 to Torrey. Torrey discloses a transfer tape having a plurality of pressure sensitive adhesive segments applied thereto, forming patterns of adhesive segments. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1 of the Torrey patent, a plurality of adhesive segments are randomly disposed on the transfer tape and cover the transfer tape substantially from one side to the other. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2 of the Torrey patent, a plurality of diamond-shaped adhesive segments are disposed on the transfer tape, with each of the diamond-shaped adhesive segments contacting the adjacent adhesive segments in both transverse and longitudinal directions. In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 3-4 of the Torrey patent, rectangular bars extend substantially the entire width of the tape. A very small border is provided along the edges of the transfer to allow use of the transfer tape with a mechanical dispensing apparatus.

Claims 1 and 7 distinguish over Torrey by reciting a plurality of adhesive segments disposed non-contiguously spaced apart and aligned in columns extending along the length of the carrier tape and that at least two separate adhesive segments are disposed within each of the longitudinal segments, positioned aligned in side-by-side relation at transversely separated locations between the edges of the carrier tape. Claim 1 further recites that the spacing provides a transversely extending margin between an outer edge of an adhesive segment and an adjacent one of the edges of the carrier tape in each of the longitudinal segments that is at least equal to the largest transverse extent of the adhesive segment. Claim 7 further recites that the adhesive segments in each of the columns are spaced apart longitudinally along the length of the carrier tape providing a longitudinally extending margin between adjacent segments of a length greater than the longitudinal extent of an adhesive segment.

Torrey illustrates in Fig. 1 adhesive segments that are spaced randomly, both longitudinally and transversely, and illustrates in Figs. 3 and 4 adhesive segments in the form of a series of rectangular bars, each of which extends the entire transverse width of the carrier tape except for a small margin at each end of the bar. Neither embodiment includes adhesive segments arrayed on a carrier tape in first and second columns with at least two separate adhesive segments disposed within each longitudinal segment and positioned aligned in side-by-side relation at transversely spaced locations. In the embodiment of Fig. 2, each of the diamond-shaped adhesive segments contacts the

adjacent adhesive segments in both transverse and longitudinal directions and thus are not disposed non-contiguously. Thus, this adhesive bearing transfer tape does not include adhesive segments that are both disposed non-contiguously at transversely separated locations.

In Applicant's adhesive dispensing tape, the adhesive segments are spaced apart transversely and longitudinally, providing margins between adjacent adhesive segments of sufficient width and length such that each of the adhesive segments is individually exposable to an abutting planar surface when the carrier tape is transversely flexed, and an individual adhesive segment can be exposed for adhering to a surface without the risk of the surface picking up multiple adhesive segments. In the transfer tape disclosed by Torrey, the close proximity of the adhesive segments shown in Figs. 1 and 2 will result in multiple adhesive segments being dispensed during a given application. The transfer tape illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 includes only a single adhesive segment in each transversely extending row and as such neither discloses nor suggests locating a plurality of adhesive segments aligned in a single row at transversely separated locations.

Therefore, in view of the distinctions noted and for the advantages attendant thereto, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 7 clearly distinguish over Torrey and are believed to be patentable over Torrey.

Claim 3, which is dependent upon Claim 1, and Claims 9-11 and 14 which are dependent upon Claim 7, are believed to be allowable along with respective parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Torrey '786 patent. Claims 1 and 7 have been distinguished over Torrey in the foregoing remarks. Claim 16 distinguishes over Torrey by reciting, generally in the manner of Claim 1, adhesive segments distributed on the carrier tape spaced apart and aligned in columns extending along the longitudinal length of the carrier tape, wherein at least two separate ones of the adhesive segments are transversely and non-contiguously disposed on the carrier tape within each of the longitudinal segments on the carrier tape and positioned in side-by-side relation at transversely separated locations between the first and second edges of the flexible carrier tape to provide a margin extending between an outer edge of an adhesive segment and an adjacent one of the first and second edges in each of the longitudinal segments that is at least equal to the transverse extent of the adhesive segment.

Moreover, it is submitted that Claims 1, 7 and 16 are not obvious in view of Torrey. By the embodiments shown in Figures 1 and 2, Torrey teaches covering substantially the entire surface of the transfer tape randomly as shown in Figure 1, or in the manner of Figure 2 in which the adhesive segments are so closely packed that each of

the adhesive segments touches each adjacent adhesive segment. Such teaching clearly teaches away from spacing the adhesive segments apart both transversely and longitudinally so to allow each adhesive segment to be transferred individually. In this regard, the adhesive segments in Figures 1 and 2 of the Torrey patent are intentionally arranged in a close adjacent or contiguous manner (Figure 2), or a nearly contiguous manner (Figure 1) in order to overcome the specified problems of the prior art recited in Torrey, i.e. having to cut the carrier tape or the adhesive in order to dispense the adhesive, not to allow a single segment to transferred to a substrate.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 3-4, Torrey illustrates only one adhesive segment in the form of a rectangular bar, in each row. This embodiment provides no teaching or suggestion as to providing a plurality of aligned bars of adhesive aligned in each row, or spacing apart such transversely disposed adhesive bars. Each of the bars of adhesive extends substantially the entire width of the tape with only a very small border provided along the edges. The border is provided to facilitate dispensing the segments using a manual or automatic dispensing apparatus which teaches away from providing a margin corresponding to the width or length of a segment, for the purpose of spacing apart adhesive segments in a given longitudinal segment of the carrier tape as recited in Claims 1 and 16, for example, or providing a plurality of adhesive segments aligned in longitudinally extending columns as recited in Claims 1, 7 and 16.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 1, 7 and 16 clearly distinguish over Torrey and are not obvious in view of Torrey. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 7 and 16 are patentable over Torrey. Claims 3 and 5, which are dependent upon Claim 1, Claims 9-14, which are dependent upon Claim 7, and Claim 20, which is dependent upon Claim 16, are believed to allowable along with respective parent claims.

Summary

In summary, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 20 are believed to be allowable for the reasons given herein. Accordingly, these claims remain pending following entry of this Amendment, and are believed to be in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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